



The Historic United Brothers Synagogue
205 High Street
Bristol, Rhode Island 02809
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Religious Leader: Daniel Kertzner
Musical Director & Organist: Patrick Aiken

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Winter/Spring 2019 Newsletter Kislev/Shevat 5779

Happy Pesach!



December 6, 2018 was the Synagogue's annual Latkepalooza! There was a rededication of the candelabra at this service. The candelabra was donated 100 years ago by the parents of 8-year-old Rose Eisenstadt, who died in the pandemic of 1918.

January 11, 2019 was the Synagogue's annual Wine and Chocolate Shabbat (Hosted by Seena Franklin and Mike Burk and Steve Krohn).



February 1, 2019 – Deuteronomy 7-8: For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with streams and springs and fountains issuing from plain and hill; a land of wheat and barley, of vines, figs and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey.

On Tu B'Shvat it is traditional to eat the seven foods listed in this passage. It is considered a mitzvah to eat as many different fruits and nuts as you can. (This oneg was hosted by Michael Feldman and Faye Dion)



March 1, 2019 – Shabbat Across America – Prior to services Shabbat Across America was celebrated. A world-wide event where congregations have a Shabbat Dinner.

Presidents Message – Ellen Bensusan

This will be my last Presidential message for United Brothers Synagogue. No, I am not going anywhere, but someone else will be stepping into the role soon. I want to take this opportunity to reflect back on what the last 4 years has meant to me and hopefully, to UBS.

I have to admit; I really didn't know what I was doing when I first took the President position. Sure, I had been involved in many social activities and was on the Board, but didn't understand what responsibility I would truly have. It was a steep learning curve as our Religious Leader left, a Rabbi was hired and resigned, critical building renovation decisions had to be made and a new Religious Leader was hired. While those responsibilities were somewhat difficult at times, the things that I will look back upon and remember most fondly were opportunities for creating new friendships and community involvement.

Over the past 4 years, UBS has developed a presence in the Bristol religious community. We had the chance to get to know our neighbors in faith through a program run by St. Mary's Church. Since that time, our monthly Shabbat services are often attended by various friends in the community who are not Jewish. No single event spoke louder for our community presence than our Shabbat service directly after the tragic Pittsburgh massacre when over 100 people showed up at the synagogue to support us in our grief. If the temple could have levitated that night from all the good will, it would have!

No one person can run an effective organization and UBS is no different. Rick and I had the good fortune this year to go to Ecuador where we visited a tribe in the Amazon rain basin. Their lodge and business is called the Anangu Community. Their community and eco-business' philosophy is based on the indigenous Leaf Cutter ants who all work as one unit to better the colony. While the Anangu Community has a director, that person's job rotates every few years, so that each person in the community shares responsibility. This is what we strive to accomplish at UBS ... a shared responsibility for something we deeply care about.

I would like to thank everyone on the Board, members of the congregation, Daniel Kertzner and the Bristol community for the kindness and support you have given me over the past 4 years. It's been a journey that will continue in a different role, but I will still work to the shared goals of United Brothers Synagogue.

Daniel's Message *(Daniel Kertzner, Religious Leader)*

The seven weeks spanning from the second night of Passover to the holiday of Shavuot is known as "the omer" and connects the Exodus from Egypt with the giving of the Torah at Sinai. The Omer was an ancient Hebrew measure of grain. Biblical law (Leviticus 23:9-11) prohibited any use of the new barley crop until an omer was brought as an offering to the Temple in Jerusalem. The Omer period, then, marked the time of the harvest with a particular concern for a successful crop.

The Book of Leviticus (23:15-16) also commanded: "And from the day on which you bring the offering . . . you shall count off seven weeks. They must be complete." This commandment serves as the basis of the traditional practice of S'firat HaOmer, or "Counting the Omer." Each evening of the 49-day period, observant Jews say a special blessing, recite a set formula for counting each day, then read a psalm and a special prayer.

Passover is the holiday of liberation and freedom. The Haggadah reminds us that we are to see ourselves as if we too had come out of Egypt. The essential message of the holiday reverberates through the generations. Personally, the holiday provides an opportunity to move beyond limitations and narrow perspectives. And on a societal level, it is a call to work for an equitable and just society. Yet in the post-Passover period, new found liberties and freedom are fragile. Much like the harvesting of the barley crop in ancient times required care and attention every day, so to do the new shoots of freedom and new behaviors sprouted at Passover. In the current times, when we are trampling over each other's ideas in

the public sphere, it is all the more important to protect such new growth especially in the realm of civil liberty. In order then not to lose the liberation of Passover and to prepare for Shavuot, it is important to count each day. One day at a time and each day at its time, by counting the omer we ensure that we don't symbolically deviate from the path to Sinai unto one of the many well-worn paths that lead back to Egypt. May our journey through this omer period bring about full expression of the freedom and liberation birthed at Passover. And may we as individuals and as a community have the wisdom and courage to ground such expression through our actions and connections to each other.

GIFTS OF CARING AND SHARING.

“One who donates much charity becomes the richer for it.”

UNITED BROTHERS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING SUPPORT

MEMORIAL FUND

Judy and Andrew Matt in memory of Judith Kertzner
Jerry Weiner in memory of Judith Kertzner
Richard and Linda Mittleman in memory of Goldie Cohen
Ronnee Wasserman and Herb Sackett in memory of Goldie Cohen

YAHARZEIT FUND

Alan Hassenfeld in memory his father Merrill L. Hassenfeld
Marcia Rouslin in memory of her mother Esther Hazen Alter
Herb Sackett in memory of his cousin Elaine Rodman
Ellen Bensusan in memory of her father Seymour Block
Steven Krohn in memory of his father Lewis Krohn
Herb Sackett in memory of his sister Shirley Sackett
Carol Feinstein in memory of her mother Dorothy Mirman
Eleanor Radin in memory of her father Henry Turoff
Joan Fandel in memory of her father Elliot Klasky
Marcia Rouslin in memory of her father Albert Alter
Carol Louison in memory of her husband Leonard Louison
Herb Sackett in memory of his mother Evelyn Sergy Sackett
Lewis Gold in memory of his mother Emily Gold
Lisa Raiola in memory of her mother Phyllis Wurtzel
Carol Louison in memory of her mother Lillian Silverman

GENERAL FUND

Daniel and Elyse Shea, Arnold Herman, Mari Ripp, Harold Gold, Mitchell and Stacy Leib

BUILDING FUND

Herb Sackett, Anya Rader Wallack, Ari and Erin Lehrner, Edith Morin, Carol Louison, Paula Reynolds, Harold Gold

CONDOLENCES TO

Daniel Kertzner on the passing of his mother Judith Kertzner
Jody and Shari Weiner on the passing of their father Jerry Weiner
Rona Bishins on the passing of her husband Paul Bishins

WELCOME TO

Evan Gallo as a new member of our synagogue

THANK YOU-To the sponsors of our most recent Shabbat Onegs

January: Seena Franklin and Mike Burk

February: Michael Feldman and Faye Dion

April: Alex and Sandy Freedman

Other News:

Safety measures are now in place for the upstairs exit. A snow shovel and ditch bag have been placed just outside the exit door.

Additional security measures have also been adopted. In light of the November shooting in Pittsburgh, the UBS Board of Directors have decided that the front doors of the synagogue will be locked 15 minutes after the start of services. This was implemented for the April services. A parked police car will also be outside during Friday services. Security guards will be in place for the High Holiday services.

Corrections/Omissions (Oops):

Kyla Lerner was a Bat Mitzvah in October, 2018

Ryan Weinberg was a Bar Mitzvah on November 17, 2018

Upcoming Services/Events

- May 3, 2019 7:30 Shabbat Services
- May 5, 2019 Annual Meeting
- June 7, 2019 7:30 Shabbat Services
- July 12, 2019 7:30 Shabbat Services
- August 2, 2019 7:30 Shabbat Services
- September 6, 2019 7:30 Shabbat Services

Every Tuesday night at 7 pm is Mah Jong! All are welcome to join us!